

Attachment 4

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UNITED STATES MILITARY SPACE PROGRAMS AND DISARMAMENT AND OUTER SPACE
(Contingency)

THE PROBLEM:

The Soviet Union and other Bloc members assert that the United States is seeking military domination in space and seeks to orbit space weapons. Alleged United States programs may be contrasted, as they have been commonly in the past, with the "exclusively peaceful" nature of Soviet space activities. In addition to alleged "bombs-in-orbit" programs, the Soviets refer to accounts of United States programs for the development of capabilities for satellite interception.

UNITED STATES POSITION:

The United States responds to such allegations in two general ways: (1) by specifically stating that the United States has no program to place weapons of mass destruction in orbit, and that the United States has specifically suggested in its outline treaty for general and complete disarmament that nations should agree to undertake not to place such weapons in orbit; and (2) by a positive effort to erode the effectiveness of Soviet public professions of comparative innocence and peacefulness by noting Soviet statements seeking to use Soviet space activities to support claims of military (particularly ICBM) power; and by citing the danger posed by the secrecy with which the Soviet Union surrounds its outer space activities.

The principle is firmly established that outer space should be free for use by all in accordance with international law and not subject to national appropriation. Furthermore, members of the United Nations have agreed to "refrain from the use or threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." (United Nations Charter, Article II, Paragraph 4). The United States continues to conduct its outer space activities in accordance with these fundamental principles. As Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric said on September 5, 1962: "The United States believes that it is highly desirable for its own security and for the security of the world that the arms race should not be extended into outer space, and we are seeking in every possible way to achieve that purpose.... We have no program to place any weapons of mass destruction into orbit." While seeking in every way to prevent the extension of the arms race into outer space, the US will, of course take such steps as are necessary to defend itself and its allies if and when the Soviet Union forces us to do so.

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As a major step in seeking that the arms race not be extended to outer space, the United States has proposed that in the first stage of general and complete disarmament the placing into orbit of weapons of mass destruction shall be prohibited.

The United States is conducting its national space program with the maximum openness consistent with national and international security. Extensive and detailed reports on the United States space science program are submitted annually to the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). The US is registering all space launchings with the United Nations. Millions of people around the world, by radio and television, have followed US astronauts--from the pre-launch countdown to the landing. The comparative secrecy of the Soviet space program is clear; protestations of peaceful intent are no substitute for concrete information.